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ARTISTS - N

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# Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Lane K. Newberry

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection





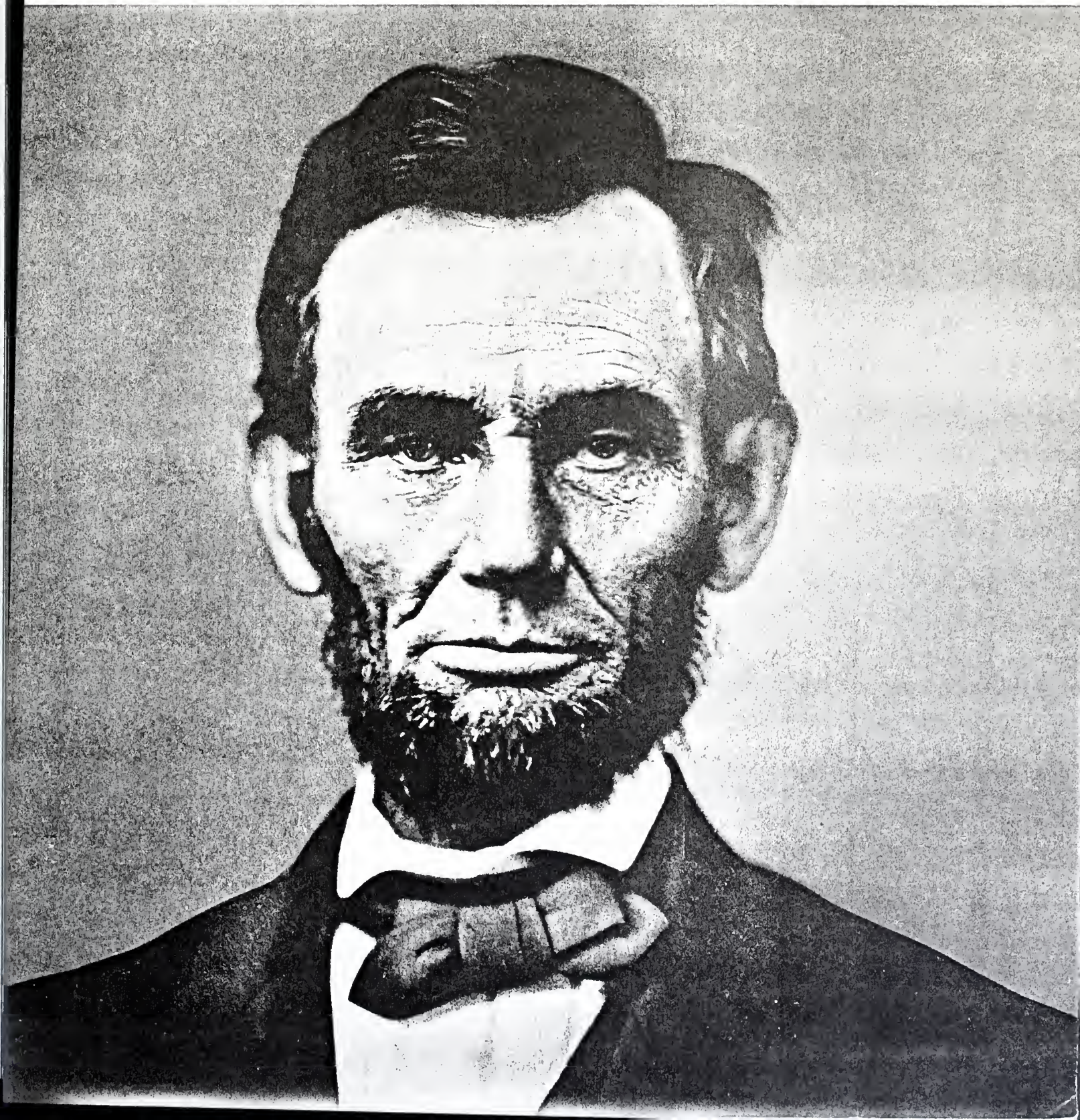


# CIMCO


*News*

February 1955

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

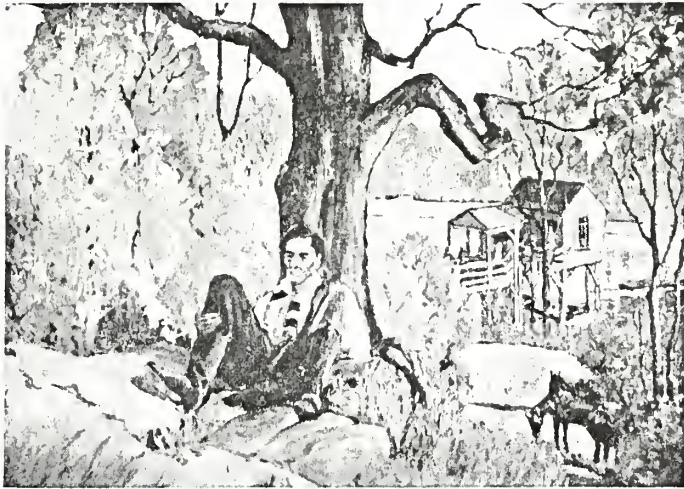






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## Lincoln, *the Thinker*

**Y**EARS afterward, when Lincoln's old New Salem neighbors recalled what they could of his life in the frontier village on the Sangamon River, one of the characteristics most vividly registered in their memories was his love of books and study. They remembered the long nights he spent with Mentor Graham hard at work on grammar and mathematics; they remembered his absorption in Blackstone; they remembered how time after time he walked to Springfield and back again to borrow the other books he needed in his preparation for the law.

They remembered, too, their own wonderment at this passion for knowledge, and they recalled with relish the interchange between Lincoln and Squire Godbey when the latter found the lanky student stretched out with a book before his eyes. "What are you reading, Abe?" Godbey had asked. "I'm not reading—I'm studying," was the answer. "Studying what?" "Law," said Lincoln. "Good God Almighty!" was the only comment Godbey could think of as he stalked away.

But Lincoln's friends remembered that he read with a difference. Said one of them: "He read very thoroughly, and had a most wonderful memory." Another recalled that he would walk along the village street with a book under his arm, stop, read a page or two, and then move on, immersed in reflection upon what he had just read. Lincoln, this old neighbor said, "seemed invariably to reflect and deliberate, never acted from impulse so far as to arrive at a wrong conclusion on a subject of any moment."

What these men sensed thus early was Lincoln's power of thought. Even as a resident of New Salem he did not accept without question what he read. Instead, it was material for his strong, original mind to work with—to turn over, modify, perhaps reject. He had discovered, as few men do, that in his own mind he possessed an instrument for arriving at truth, and even in youth he was using it. Later, in maturity, he would come to rely upon it to such an extent that his law partner could say of him, with superficial exaggeration but basic accuracy: "He read less and thought more than any man in his sphere in America."

PAUL M. ANGLE,  
Illinois State Historical Library.







## Pioneer Industry

### LINCOLN AND THE NEW SALEM CARDING MACHINE

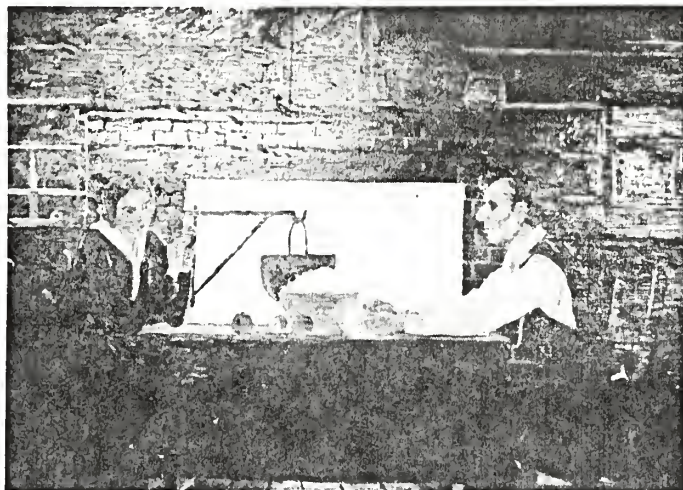
NEW SALEM, where Lincoln lived from 1831 until 1837, was not only a village of pioneer homes; it was also an aggregation of pioneer industries. Within its limits were a grist mill and sawmill, a tannery, a cooper's shop, a carding machine, and several stores. One man made felt from fur and fashioned it into hats, a shoemaker shod the villagers, the blacksmith forged all kinds of household articles. In every home there was a spinning wheel, and some had looms. In a word, New Salem could supply most of its modest wants from its own resources.

To the present-day observer, no establishment in the restored village is more interesting than the carding machine; and probably none made a stronger appeal to the mechanical bent of Abraham Lincoln. Power was supplied by ox which trod upon a large round platform set at an angle. The ox got nowhere, but he kept moving the platform round and round. The power, thus generated, was transmitted by a series of wooden gears and shafts to the cards which combed out the tangled fibres of the wool. Later it would be spun into thread and woven into cloth to warm the residents of New Salem against the raw winter winds.

The carding machine was one of the enterprises of Samuel Hill, New Salem storekeeper and friend of Lincoln. Perhaps, in the picture on this calendar, Lincoln is on his way to feed the ox, or to turn it out to grass at Hill's request. Perhaps he sees an audience that will appreciate one of his inimitable stories. The incident is imaginary, but from what we know of Lincoln and New Salem, we can be certain that something like it happened many times during his residence there.

PAUL M. ANGLE,  
Illinois State Historical Library





## *Romance*

**D**ID Abraham Lincoln and Ann Rutledge, sitting before the great fireplace in the Rutledge Tavern at New Salem, see the promise of happiness in each other's eyes? Did they look forward to the time when Ann should be released from her engagement to John McNamar, long absent from the village, and be free to avow her love for the awkward, hesitant postmaster and storekeeper who had slowly but surely come to hold first place in her affections? Did they plan their life together after she should have attended the young women's seminary at Jacksonville, and after he should have won the license to practice law for which he was studying? Did Ann's death, coming with stunning suddenness in the summer of 1835, leave a wound from which Lincoln, with a heart tender as spring blossoms, was years in recovering?

Historians, skeptical of all that cannot be proved by their beloved documents, answer "Perhaps" to questions like these, but in the minds of the American people there are no reservations. To them the romance of Lincoln and Ann Rutledge is not only historical fact; it is also one of the most cherished episodes in the national past. And who can say, with certainty, that they are wrong?

PAUL M. ANGLE,  
Chicago Historical Society.





**Belleville.com**

Posted on Fri, Jan. 27, 2006

## Lincoln museum to display paintings donated by railroad

Associated Press

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.** - Kim Bauer searched for years for original paintings of Abraham Lincoln that first appeared in railroad company calendars more than 50 years ago.

When the Springfield-based Illinois and Midland Railroad Co. invited Bauer to its office last year, the curator of the state's collection of Lincoln documents knew the chase was over.

"The paintings were all over the place, on the walls, hanging," Bauer said.

Starting Saturday, the 20 paintings will be hanging in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum as part of its latest exhibit, "Mr. Lincoln's Attic."

The railroad company commissioned Fletcher Ransom to do most of the paintings. The others are by Reynolds Jones of Springfield and Lane Newberry of Chicago.

Ransom, who trained at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Academy of Fine Arts in New York City and did work for Colliers magazine, is the most famous of the three, said the museum's registrar, William Snyder.

Many of the paintings depict scenes from Lincoln's life as a young man in New Salem, while a few capture famous moments in Springfield. One of Ransom's paintings shows how Lincoln helped save a stranded flatboat on the Sangamon River near New Salem.

Bauer said collectors often offered framed copies of the paintings that appeared in calendars from the early 1930s to the mid-1950s. But he wanted the originals.

After coming up empty-handed after years of phone calls, the railroad company called early last year to offer the paintings to the museum, Bauer said.

### ON THE NET

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum: <http://www.alincoln-library.com>

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